

**Commission on Aging  
Executive Committee  
January 20, 2011  
Meeting Notes**

**Attending:**

Members: Elaine Binder, Tammy Duell, John Honig, Marcia Pruzan, Odile Saddi, Spencer Schron, Beth Shapiro, Jack Sprague, Grace Whipple.

Guests: Carolyn Biggins, Joy Barrow, Division of Transit Services, Department of Transportation

Topic	Discussion Points	Decisions/follow-up
<p><b>Transportation Policy: Carolyn Biggins and Joy Barrow</b></p>	<p>Ms. Biggins and Joy Barrow reviewed presented a handout (attachment 1), and provided detailed information and statistics about existing County transportation services, areas of coverage, other public and nonprofit transportation providers, and strategic plans for meeting the changing needs of County residents by 2020. RideOn currently has 74 routes, and Metrobus has 30 routes. Twenty-nine million passengers use these services each year (95,000 per day). County seniors represent 7 percent of riders at this time--a decrease of 2 percent since budget cuts eliminated some routes and reduced some schedules. Plans for 2020 include implementing rapid bus transit, increasing service to all areas with 3+ households/acre, increasing frequency to 10 minutes or better, arranging local bus service to 19-24 hours a day, targeting low-income areas with nontraditional services.</p> <p>Some discussion issues included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for intense education and outreach regarding available services</li> <li>• Need for mobility training for seniors and their families, especially to help them move from home to transportation services and back again.</li> <li>• Difficulty of getting seniors to adopt new transportation opportunities when made available, as happened when Call n Ride was introduced in Tobeytown.</li> <li>• A need for a taxi rider's bill of rights—what to expect when riding a taxi</li> </ul> <p>In addition, they offered a department plan for senior transportation. (Attachment 2) In discussion that followed, Committee members applauded the plan as an important first step and part of a wider vision for senior transportation that expands beyond the Department of Transportation to other departments and outside groups and is not tied to fiscal constraints. The COA Aging in Place/Community Committee has made transportation a priority issue and has developed a “transportation and mobility” principles paper that incorporates and expands beyond the DOT policy and department responsibilities. (Attachment 3) It was suggested that COA act as a catalyst for bringing diverse groups together to discuss collaborations and partnerships in this area.</p>	<p>Carolyn Biggins will forward the PowerPoint presentation to Odile Saddi</p> <p>Elaine will be meeting with the County Executive at the end of the month to discuss the COA Call to Action, and will explore the feasibility of the COA convening a meeting of all interested parties to discuss improving senior transportation and mobility needs today and for the future as the numbers of seniors increase and to get buy-in and commitment for support from outside organizations.</p>

<b>Stakeholders Meeting: Beth Shapiro and Grace Whipple</b>	<p>Beth and Grace reviewed plans for the Stakeholders meeting.</p> <p>On behalf of the Communications and Community Outreach Committee, Spence presented the slogan <i>Remember: Seniors Count</i></p>	Committee members approved the planned agenda and program, as well as a suggested COA slogan, <i>Remember: Seniors Count</i> .
<b>Public Policy: Jack Sprague</b>	<p>Jack reviewed several state bills slated to be put into the state legislative session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities for a Lifetime</li> <li>• Financial Crimes</li> <li>• Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST)</li> <li>• Legislation to provide that senior centers cannot be compelled to share personal information (such as name, address, age, etc.) about its members. This information currently can be made available under freedom of information laws.</li> </ul>	Concerned and knowledgeable COA members and outside individuals are urged to testify in Annapolis about issues affecting seniors. Jack will ask COA members to sign up to testify.
<b>Mental Health: Spencer Schron</b>	The pilot project is moving forward.	
<b>Seniors Today Task Force: Marcia Pruzan</b>	February's show will feature topics of care giving, money management, and cooking and nutrition. ST will try to coordinate its shows with Odile's monthly listserv newsletters. It was suggested that Odile send information about each month's show in these communications—ST plans to try to coordinate topics with her monthly newsletter topic that go to all those on her listserv. It may be possible for senior centers also to promote each month's show. Other plans for outreach are somewhat dependent on the ability of the Information Office to meet demands brought on by budget cuts.	
<b>Upcoming meetings</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 1/24 BCC Regional Center hosting Leggett-budget forum</li> <li>2) 1/24 evening, meeting of boards, committees and commissions of DHHS</li> <li>3) 1/10 Chairs of all Commissions will testify to the County Executive on two issues of concern and solutions; Committee member discussed as possibilities transportation, cuts in senior programming that have most deleterious effects, especially on the most vulnerable</li> <li>4) Delegate Bill Frick is interested in issues concerning seniors and the COA's work.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) John Honig will attend; Odile will provide him with background information</li> <li>2) Grace will attend</li> <li>3) Elaine asked Odile, working with Jay, propose topics for consideration at the COA meeting next week.</li> <li>4) Elaine will meet with Delegate Frick.</li> </ol>
<b>Next Meeting</b>	February 17, 2011	